

TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

ISSUE: Coordination, Cooperation, and Connectivity

Comments from Planning Team on October 20, 2003

Borders

- Need technology & transportation infrastructures in order to implement new and creative technology at the borders.
- I heard the numbers of how mutually reliant Michigan is upon Ontario and Canada for our economic well being. Out of this is the need for keeping our border crossings secure.
- Better functioning borders relies on four components: better infrastructure, better technology, better policy and more people. None of these alone are the answer.

General

- Cross jurisdictional coordination and communication is vital.
- Sometimes you don't have to have a mandate, funded or otherwise, to get things done.
- As milestones are achieved in the process, celebrate it.
- The formalizing of advisory councils is very important for input at all jurisdictional levels.
- The topics we covered this morning were of a broad area and may need to be broken into sub categories; i.e., homeland security, communication technology, and data sharing.
- Government should foster intermodal connectivity when appropriate.
- When talking about coordination, cooperation, and connectivity, we need to become a philosophy for transportation agencies to use for all projects.
- Planning is a key component of bringing about coordination, cooperation, and connectivity.

Involvement

- Our public involvement process has emphasized public interests groups and individuals and perhaps not with our freight and Canadian partners as well as it should be.
- Some were broad topics. When there is coordination, or attempts to coordinate, groups need to look externally at broader groups that may need to be involved.
- When you have an enormous capital project, it is vital to have context sensitive design and public participation all the way through the process.
- We can learn from private sector when Federal Express said they had to reinvent themselves in the last five years to better serve the customer.
- Public participation is very important.

MultiModal

- The coordination and connectivity across modes is pretty weak.
- Need for more regional planning for connectivity across all modes, particularly across public transit.

Partnerships

- There is already coordination through the MITS Center with State Police and others regarding Incident Management.
- Michigan Department of Transportation, County Road Association of Michigan, and Michigan Municipal League are learning to play together in the sand box nicely.
- Need to have more communication with MDOT and other State Departments that have transportation dollars; for example, Family Independence Agency. Currently they work independent of each other. Need a state transportation coordinator.
- There are opportunities now, Asset Management and Critical Bridge Improvement Project, where state, counties, and cities can work together for mutually beneficial ends. There is appreciation and commonality on issues that they work towards common ends.

Technology

- Michigan is a leader in information technology with the technology process and we don't trumpet that enough. Need to share with others.
- Technology has a lot to offer in this area. Helps make it possible to practice coordination, cooperation, and connectivity; but helps lower cost; i.e., a single state-wide data base used in asset management. Michigan has a GPS system available to everyone.

Transportation System

- Need cooperation within the transportation infrastructure to have seamless transportation.
- Today with the movement, Vehicle Integration Initiative, the discussion is how we can improve the transportation infrastructure and how to cooperate between infrastructure and vehicle. Private industries are making decisions based on the transportation infrastructure.
- Transportation system cannot be predicated on that everyone drives. Need to have seamless personal transportation. Everyone needs to be mobile.
- A multi billion dollar industry (Federal Express) is making assumptions on how good our transportation system is going to be, and making promises to their customers based on the transportation system.